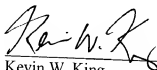


Remarks

This Second Preliminary Amendment follows the Preliminary Amendment filed June 12, 2000. The specification was added to update the reference to related applications/patents. New claim 44 was added. Support for new claim 44 is found in the specification, for example, at page 10, lines 4-6. No new matter has been added.

Allowance of claims 36-44 is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this paper, along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed, is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.



Eva Mukasa

Date: July 31, 2000

APPENDIX
Claims as Preliminarily Amended

- 1-35. (Canceled).
36. A method for isolating a polyhydroxyalkanoate from a biomass derived from a transgenic plant comprising the polyhydroxyalkanoate, the method comprising:
 - (a) treating the biomass, with at least one chemical or biochemical agent, to chemically derivatize the polyhydroxyalkanoate; and
 - (b) separating the derivatized polyhydroxyalkanoate from the biomass.
37. The method of claim 36 wherein, in step (a), the biomass is treated with at least one chemical agent selected from the group consisting of acids, bases, detergents, oxidizing agents, chelating agents, reducing agents, nucleophilic reagents, electrophilic reagents, metal ions, aqueous solutions, and organic solutions.
38. The method of claim 36 wherein, in step (a), the polyhydroxyalkanoate is derivatized by a chemical transformation selected from the group consisting of an esterification, transesterification, hydrolysis, saponification, aminolysis, thiolysis, etherification, silylation, addition, elimination, rearrangement, and a condensation.
39. The method of claim 36 wherein the biochemical agent is an enzyme.
40. The method of claim 39 wherein the enzyme is selected from the group consisting of depolymerases, proteases, nucleases, lipases, cellulases, phosphorylases, and glycosidases.
41. The method of claim 36 wherein, in step (b), the derivatized polyhydroxyalkanoate is separated by a physical process selected from the group consisting of distillation, extraction, centrifugation, filtration, and chromatography.
42. The method of claim 36 wherein the transgenic plant is an oilseed plant.
43. The method of claim 36 wherein the polyhydroxyalkanoate includes one or more units selected from the group consisting of a 3-hydroxyacid, a 4-hydroxyacid, and a 5-hydroxyacid.
44. The method of claim 36 wherein the biomass comprises plant parts selected from the group consisting of leaves, stems, seeds, and combinations thereof.